

March 6, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I care about animals, including wildlife, and I vote.

Please accept this public hearing testimony for the following 5 bills, and a request to bring up HB 5615 (which would allow towns to ban trapping):

- 1) OPPOSE SB 522 -- would allow bear hunting. I oppose.
- 2) OPPOSE HB 5499 -- would expand Sunday hunting. I oppose.
- 3) SUPPORT HB 6335 -- ivory sales ban. Please support. This should have been passed years ago.
- 4) SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS, SB 942 -- Cecil's law, anti -trophy hunting. Please see HSUS suggestions for minor language changes that should be done to strengthen the bill.
- 5) SUPPORT HB 6334 -- would require registration for all brick-and-mortar animal shelters
- 6) Finally, in these last days of public hearings, I ask that you consider bringing up HB 5615 for a public hearing. HB 5615 would give local control to allow municipalities to determine whether or not they want to ban trapping. Trapping is cruel and indiscriminate (dogs, cats, and birds are often caught in these traps), and not effective in curbing undesired behavior. Further, trapping does not control population size due to the high compensatory reproduction ability exhibited by most fur-bearing species. Learning how to remove attractants, exclusion strategies where possible, and, if necessary, how to haze, are the humane, simple, effective, and science-based solutions that I support, and I want my town to be able to take as stand against the cruel, ineffective, and indiscriminate practice of trapping. Our neighbors in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey are among other states who have banned or severely restricted use of leghold and body-crushing traps.

Yours truly,
Agnes Wosko
Granby, CT